(e) the time taken by Defence Intelligence to locate this matter; and

(f) how far secret officers and intelligence each is responsible in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b)	Year	Number of cases
	2003	Nil
	2004	Nil
	2005	2

(c) and (d) Once a leakage of classified information is detected, immediate remedial action is taken to ensure that it does not have any adverse effect on the security set up of the country. Detailed instructions exist for ensuring safety of the classified documents. These are reviewed and updated from time to time. Stern action is taken against personnel who are found to be involved in leakage of classified information.

(e) and (f) Defence Intelligence Agencies are structured and tasked along with civilian agencies for detection of such cases. The Counter Intelligence Units are responsible for prevention, detection and neutralization of hostile intelligence agencies and espionage efforts.

Expenses incurred in joint fighter exercises

2609. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked the Indian Air Force to reduce the number of joint fighter exercises with foreign countries due to the high expenses involved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total of joint fighter exercises carried out during the year 2005-2006; and

(d) the details of expenses incurred?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Air Force had participated in the following fighter exercises in the year 2005-2006.

(i) GARUDA-II with France at Istres (France).

(ii) COPE INDIA-05 with USA at Kalaikunda (India).

(iii) SINDEX-06 with Singapore at Kalaikunda (India).

(d) Expenses incurred in Exercise GARUDA-II is approximately Rs. 27 crores, whereas the expenses incurred in Exercises SINDEX-06 and COPE INDIA-05 form part of training flying.

Pilots leaving IAF

2610. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force pilots want to leave the Government job of the Air Force;

(b) if so, the number of such pilots and other designations, if any;

(c) the main reasons which are forcing the pilots to resign and how Government are not meeting their requirements;

(d) how leaving of these pilots shall have an adverse effect on the working of Indian Air Force; and

(e) how Government shall meet the shortage of pilots?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The requests for acceptance of premature retirements/ resignation from the pilots are considered as per the government instructions. The majority of pilots released from service had completed their useful tenure as pilots. Thus their exits do not affect the operational status of the squadrons.